UNIT 3: ABSOLUTISM AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

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| MAINIDEA | KEY CONCEPTS | NOTES AND VOCABULARY |
| Contextualizing State Building | The struggle for sovereignty within and among states resulted in varying degrees of political centralization*•The new concept of the sovereign state and secular systems of law played a central role in the creation of new political institutions**•The competition for power between monarchs and corporate and minority language groups produced different distributions of governmental authority in European states**•Monarchies seeking enhanced power faced challenges from nobles who wished to retain traditional forms of shared governance and regional authority**•Within state, minority local and regional identities based of language and culture led to resistance against the dominant national group* |  |
| Different models of political sovereignty affected the relationship among states and between states and individuals*•In much of Europe, absolute monarchy was established over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries* *•Challenges to absolutism resulted in alternative political systems* |
| The English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution  | The English Civil War – a conflict among the monarchy, Parliament, and other elites over their respective roles in the political structure – exemplified the competition for power among monarchs and competing groups |  |
| The outcome of the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution protected the rights of gentry and aristocracy from absolutism through assertions of the rights of Parliament  |
| Review  | Explain the context in which different forms of political power developed from 1648-1815.Explain the causes and consequences of the English Civil War. |
| The Dutch Golden Age | The Dutch Republic, established by a Protestant revolt against the Habsburg monarchy, developed an oligarchy of urban gentry and rural landholders to promote trade and protect traditional rights |  |
| Review | Explain the factors that contributed to the development of the Dutch Republic. |
| Balance of Power | The competitive state system led to new patterns of diplomacy and new forms of warfare*•Following the Peace of Westphalia, religion declined in importance as a cause for warfare among European states; the concept of the balance of power played an important role in structuring diplomatic and military objectives* |  |
| The inability of the Polish monarchy to consolidate its authority over the nobility led to Poland’s partition by Prussia, Russia, an Austria, and its disappearance from the map of Europe |
| After 1648, dynastic and state interests, along with Europe’s expanding colonial empires, influenced the diplomacy of European state and frequently led to war *•After the Austrian defeat of the Turks in 1683 at the Battle of Vienna, the Ottomans ceased their westward expansion**•Louis XIV’s nearly continuous wars, pursuing both dynastic and state interests, provoked a coalition of European powers opposing him*  |
| Advances in military technology led to new forms of warfare, including greater reliance on infantry, firearms, mobile cannon, and more elaborate fortifications, all financed by heavier taxation and requiring a larger bureaucracy. New military techniques and institutions (ie, the military revolution) tipped the balance of power toward states ale to marshal sufficient resources for the new military environment |
| Absolutist Approaches to Power | Absolute monarchies limited the nobility’s participation in governance but preserved the aristocracy’s social position and legal privileges |  |
| Louis XIV and his finance minister, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, extended the administrative, financial, military, and religious control of the central state over the French population |
| Peter the Great “westernized” the Russian state and society, transforming the political, religious, and cultural institutions; Catherine the Great continued this process |
| Review | Explain how European states attempted to establish and maintain a balance of power on the continent throughout the period from 1648-1815.Explain how advances in technology contributed to a development balance of power on the continent throughout the period from 1648-1815.Explain how absolutist forms of rule affected social and political development from 1648 to 1815.Compare and contrast two European monarchs OR compare and contrast constitutionalism in England and absolutism in France or Russia. |